

Lee's Hill (very steep)
is far up Lake Creek
just below the Forester's fence

Lee's Hill way up into
the hills
Ken does not know

JOHN AND SARAH ROEBUCK LEE



Sarah Roebuck was born July 20, 1821, at Adsack Woodhouse, Yorkshire, England. She was the daughter of Sampson Roebuck and Phoebe Marshall. Sarah was baptized in Mizson, Northinghamshire, England, in May, 1849, at the age of 28.

John Lee was born at Mizson, Northinghamshire, England, January 18, 1822. He was left fatherless at the age of two.

At 10 years of age he went to work on a farm until he was 18. He was married to Sarah Roebuck at the age of 18. He worked at a foundry six years.

He joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in England January 28, 1846.

Some time between baptism and the time he left England he was a traveling Elder and as near as can be found he baptized 18 or 20 persons.

On March 22, 1856, he and the family

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left England on the ship "Enock Train" for Boston.

He left Sheffield, Yorkshire, England, by rail for Liverpool, under the direction of Elders Frost and McDonald, all rejoicing in going to help in the building up of the Lord's kingdom in the valleys of the Rocky Mountains.

On the ocean we saw many schools of porpoises and some whale.

Some children were born and some died while crossing. It was sorrowful to witness their burial in the briny deep. One day, while we were watching the fish, a dead man floated past. Some other ship apparently had buried him.

After being on the sea many days we landed in Boston on May 1. The ship carried 534 saints. The boat's skipper was Captain Henry P. Rich.

The presidency of the company consisted of Elder James Ferguson, Elder Edmund Ellsworth and Elder Daniel D. McArthur.

We then left Boston for New York and arrived May 2. We left New York at 5 o'clock for Iowa, traveling by rail, and left Chicago at 11 o'clock at night, arriving at Rock Island at 9 o'clock the next morning.

On May 10, at 8 o'clock, we crossed the Missouri River.

Monday, May 12, at 3 o'clock, we arrived at Iowa, dragging our luggage about two miles to a camp ground, where we fixed some tents that were made aboard ship.

It rained and was cold.

May 14 My children came down with the fever.

June 7—Started our trek with our handcarts. It was slow and dusty. We had to allow three of our children to ride all the way (one six months, one two years and one four years old).

June 15—Our son, William Lee, 12, died, also Sister Prator's child. We buried them by moonlight on Bear Creek.

I repaired handcarts every day.

June 26—Traveled about one mile. We were faint from lack of food. We were allowed only about $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of flour a person each day and about 3 ozs. of sugar each week. About $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. bacon was allowed each week.

We buried someone nearly every day.

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HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

July 1—Cloudy and began to rain; traveled about 15 miles; repaired handcarts. A storm came about 11 that night. It split the tent and there was not a dry thread on us.

A boy was lost and at another time a man was lost, but after a long search both were found.

July 9—Rested at Florence City, mending handcarts and women washing.

July 20—Started again and traveled seven miles.

July 22—Passed over the ferry at Elkhorn.

July 24—Very hot—went about 18 miles.

July 26—Passed over the ferry at Luke Fort — traveled about six miles when it looked very heavy and black. We had not gone far when it began lightning and the thunder roared. In about the middle of the train of handcarts the lightning struck a brother and he fell dead. His name was Henry Walker, from Carlisle, age 58. Left a wife and two sons. I put the body, with the help of the others, on handcart and pulled him two miles to camp, and buried him without a coffin. There were no boards available.

August 2—We saw many buffalo; traveled about 18 miles.

August 6—Were thousands of buffalo; four were killed for food; 14 last of buffalo seen, some were killed and dried.

August 23—Traveled about 16 miles—camped by Platte River. Our allowance of flour tonight was 1 lb. per person, for this I was thankful, for I never was so hungry.

Captain Ellsworth shot a cow, which was received thankfully.

September 5—Rested, rained all day.

September 6—Lost cattle.

September 12—Sarah very poorly. Archer Walters and family were tent mates of the Lees. He died a fortnight after arriving in Salt Lake. He helped John Lee to make all the untimely coffins and to bury their fellow travelers.

We arrived September 26, 1856, in Salt Lake Valley, in the Edmund Ellsworth company. They rested a week in Salt Lake and went to Spanish Fork—stayed there three years.

Then we moved up Provo Valley, now known as Wasatch County. There were 28 families here then. John and Sarah Lee had 12 children born to them, four boys and

eight girls. Their home was the first one with a fireplace and chimney in when finished. She was a midwife. At Christmas they had the first party in the valley. In the summer, Sarah gathered ground cherries and dried them, then in the fall she made syrup from beets, and at Christmas time she preserved the dried ground cherries in the beet syrup and made a plum pudding for the Christmas dessert.

John Lee helped build bridges and kill rattlesnakes. Midway was alive with them.

He was a Black Hawk War veteran.

John Lee was loved by all who knew him, and was a hard worker and an honest man.

John and Sarah had 12 children, 64 grandchildren, 86 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. They always were singing and had prayer at night.

She died at home in Wasatch County, September 14, 1909.

John Lee died at Heber City on June 18, 1907.

Both were buried in Heber City.

Dirt floors, dirt roofs and mud packed between the logs were the order of the day.

When the crops were planted and the log huts prepared, the men left the valley and went back to Provo where happy families greeted them with shouts of "How's the weather?" and "When are we going?"

With wives, children, cows, pigs, chickens and all their earthly possessions packed, the original company started out and were joined by others who were cheered by the reports of a good summer and plenty of farming land and irrigation water. Some of the additional families who came were Thomas H. Giles, John Giles, Hiram Oaks and George Carlile.

During that first summer, some 1,000 bushels of grain were raised in the valley. Though some of the wheat crop was injured by early frost, it could still be made into flour and the settlers rejoiced for the blessings of the harvest. Because the nearest gristmill was in Provo and a four-days' journey away, many of the people ground flour in small hand mills or boiled the wheat and ate it whole with milk.

With the crops in and summer on the wane, dread winter again loomed up before the people. Farming efforts had been to raise wheat and other crops to sustain human life, and so before winter came it was necessary to cut meadow hay and swamp grass for cattle wherever it could be found. All of it had to be cut by hand with a scythe, which proved to be the hardest work of the summer.

Many of the men who had come to the valley during the summer and raised their crops decided that they would return to Provo for the winter rather than provide hay for their cattle and be shut out from the rest of the world for the long winter months.

However, 18 families had cast their lot with Provo Valley and through the winter they stayed. These families, according to the journal of John Crook, were Thomas Rasband, John Crook, Charles N. Carroll, John Jordan, Alexander Sessions, Bradford Sessions, Hiram Oaks, John Lee, Richard Jones, James Davis, William Davidson, James Laird, John Sessions, Elisha Thomas, James Carlile and George Carlile. Jane Clotworthy and Elizabeth Carlile were both widows. Charles C. Thomas, unmarried, lived with his brother Elisha. No record is made of the exact number of women and children.

The first birth among the settlers in the valley occurred in November. The child, a daughter of William Davidson and his wife, Ellen, was named Timpanogos, the Indian name for the valley and the prominent mountain that lay at the west.

For those who remained, the first winter in the valley was a long and dreary one. The snow fell early and was several feet deep. For nearly four months they were without communication from the rest of the world.

At Christmas time, however, a group of young people from Provo braved the weather and came through the canyon by sleigh and spent the holiday season with the families in the valley. They soon left and no one else came into the valley until the snows melted.

Their being shut out from the rest of the world did not mean that the settlers spent the winter days and nights with long faces and twiddling thumbs. Quite the opposite. Meeting in the various log homes, they held Church meetings each Sabbath day and during the week gathered for singing, dancing and dramatics.

As the Spring of 1860 neared they hopefully looked for signs that winter was leaving and warm weather was on its way. By the end of March when the snow was still as deep as ever and no signs of Spring were evident, some began to get discouraged. It was finally determined that all would meet at the home of Thomas Rasband where a meeting would be held and the help of the Lord sought.

Those present reported that during the meeting they prayed sincerely and earnestly that the Lord would cause the snow to melt and Spring to come so that their famished oxen and cows might get grass to eat and that they could plant their crops and be in touch again with their friends in the lower valleys.

Before the meeting was dismissed there was water dripping from the eaves of the house and Spring was born in the valley.

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... AND THEY GREW AND WAXED STRONG
to the valley. It was small and threshed very slowly, using horses as its source of power. When the grain had been through the machine it still had to be run through a fanning mill to separate the kernels from the chaff. This mill was hand operated and also very slow. As a result, some of the grain did not get harvested before winter set in.

The prospects of winter seemed less bleak that year for there were many more people in the valley and more adequate preparations had been made. To help the time pass more quickly, a dramatics group was organized. Some very good plays were produced with John Crook, James Duke, C. N. Carroll, John Galligher and John Jordan taking the leads.

The saints also could look forward to regular Church services on Sundays in their new meeting house. A choir was organized to help with the music and John Crook, talented in many lines, served as the choir leader.



JOHN CROOK
Original Settler and Early Historian

Schools were also conducted during the winter months for the education of the people. John M. Young was the first school teacher and the classes were held in the meeting house with students sitting on rough benches or stools using make-shift desks fastened to the walls.

There were other interests in the new valley, too, for the records show that on Christmas Day, 1860, Charles C. Thomas claimed as his bride, Emmaline Sessions. They were married by Thomas Rasband in the first ceremony to be performed in the valley. That evening another couple, Harvey Meeks and a Miss Dougal were married at Center Creek by Silas Smith.

According to John Crook's journal, those who spent the winter of 1860-61 in the fort with their families were:

North Side: John Carlile, John Crook, Thomas Rasband, James Carlile, Fred Giles, Robert S. Duke, Willis Boren, James Davis, Robert Broadhead, Hyrum Oaks, Alfred Johnson, Sam Rooker, William Damaron, James Lamon and John Lee.

East Side: Alex Sessions, Richard Jones, Elisha Thomas, Bradford Sessions, Isaac Cummings, Darwin Walton, John Cummings Sr., Charles N. Carroll, George Damaron, Bailes Sprouse, Thomas Hicken, George Thompson and Norton Jacobs.

South Side: Thomas Moulton, Patrick Carroll, William Forman, John Muir, John M. Murdock, Thomas Todd, Cal Henry and Robert Carlile.

West Side: Jane Clotworthy, Zemira Palmer, James Duke, James Laird, Cub Johnson, John Davis, Robert Parker, Terry Burns, William McDonald, John Hamilton, George W. Clyde, John Witt, Joseph S. McDonald, John Jordan, a Mr. Russell and John McDonald.

By the time Spring was welcomed in 1861 the community of Heber was recognized by Church leaders in Salt Lake City as being large enough to organize into a ward. Thus, early in 1861 Joseph S. Murdock was ordained as bishop of the new ward by President Brigham Young and sent from American Fork to Heber to take charge of Church affairs. He chose as his counselors John W. Witt and Thomas Rasband. John Hamilton served as ward clerk.

Bishop Murdock also served as presiding bishop of the valley and directed the Church efforts of presiding elders who were called in the small communities that had begun to spring up in the valley. These community developments are discussed separately in later chapters.

The year 1861 proved to be a year of many significant accomplishments. With Church activity on an organized basis and the individual homes as well fixed as possible for that time, the settlers began to look to community improvements.

Provisions were made for old and new settlers to plant vegetable gardens outside the fort. Ephraim Smith and William P. Reynolds built a chopper run by horse power to chop wheat for those who could not go to the mills in Provo. While it was still somewhat crude, the chopper was a great help to those who had been grinding their flour in small hand mills.

Another bridge was built over the Provo River, this one located six miles north of Heber on the road to Salt Lake City. A good wagon road was also made through Provo Canyon, with toll being charged for use of the road.

John M. Murdock organized a cooperative sheep herd in 1860 and cared for the sheep during the summer months himself. He was able to take the sheep far enough south to winter out so that they did not need special supplies of hay. This method of caring for the sheep enabled

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Because the settlers in Center Creek depended upon farming for their livelihood, irrigation waters were of utmost importance. Some of the earliest community cooperative projects, as well as some of the disputes, transpired because of the need for irrigation water.

The first settlers in the area laid claim to the water in Center Creek and also some of the smaller streams nearby. This meant that new families coming into the area either had to get permission from the older residents to use the water, or look elsewhere for their irrigation needs. The new settlers felt that there was ample water for everyone if it were to be distributed fairly, but try as they would, they couldn't persuade the original settlers to give up much of it.

As a result, many meetings were held in an effort to solve the problem, and it was finally resolved that the newer settlers would go into Center Creek Canyon and look for sites where reservoirs could be built to hold water that was just going to waste. They located and staked out six reservoir sites, and began the task of building the dams. However, the struggles were still not ended because the early settlers then attempted to stop them from filling the dams. Many lively meetings ensued before it was finally decided to organize a reservoir company in 1879 and subsequently the Center Creek Irrigation and Water Company in 1887. Now 72 years later these two companies were consolidated in 1962.

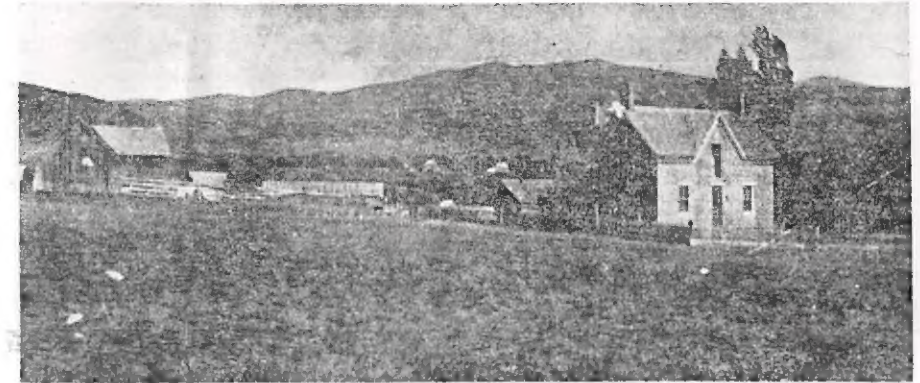
With the organization of the Irrigation Company, the settlement of disputes was left up to the officers and directors, who attempted to be as fair as possible. William Richardson Sr. was the first president of the company. Other officers were Parley Murdock, Archibald Sellers and George Hyrum Sweat.

While the community of Center Creek was growing, another community about two miles north of Center began to develop. This was known as Lake Creek, and began about 1877. Robert Lindsay and his wife Sarah Ann, and William Lindsay and his wife Mary, had been living in Heber, but decided to look around for a site where they might establish more permanent homes. They finally decided on a site three miles east of Heber, near a spring, and in 1877 moved from Heber to begin farming the rich soil.

They built log homes and lived close together until about 1883 when they decided it would be much easier to work the farm land if one family lived in the upper section. They drew lots to see who would move, and Robert got the "cut" to move. He built a two-room log house and later a large, two-story home for his family.

As these men found success in farming the Lake Creek land, others soon began to take up homesteads in the area. Some of these homesteaders included Bengt Peterson, James Nash, William Murdoch Sr., William Baird Sr. and John W. Crook.

An excellent sandstone quarry was developed on property owned by John Crook and Herbert Clegg. The stone was used to build many of



A home built from red sandstone by Thomas Phillips in the early days of the Lake Creek area. This photograph was taken of the home in 1910.

the homes in Center Creek, Lake Creek, Heber and even in Salt Lake City. Some of the buildings constructed of the stone were the Stake House and County Court House, the jail and the Central and North Schools, all in Heber. The sand stone was also used for sidewalks and for lining graves.

Lake Creek settlers also had their irrigation water problems as the population began to grow, and on May 2, 1888 the farmers of the area met to formulate plans for an irrigation company. An organizing committee was formed with Robert Broadhead as chairman and Robert Clegg as secretary. By July 6, 1888 the company organization was ready and Mr. Broadhead was elected as the first president. William Lindsay was named secretary with Henry Chatwin as treasurer and John Lee and Henry Clegg as directors.

First stockholders in the company were Henry Clegg, Robert Broadhead, John Lee, Henry Chatwin, James Nash, Elizabeth Nash, a Mrs. Phillips, John Baird, William Baird, James Baird, Robert and William Lindsay, Milton and William Murdoch, Orson Lee, Abram Hatch, Bengt Peterson, Mrs. Elisha Jones, Richard Jones, Thomas Campbell, William Blake, Mrs. William Cole, Eric Erickson, William Priestly, John Lloyd, Nels and Ludwig Anderson, Thomas and William Clegg, William Davis, Rasmus Miller, Rasmus Anderson and Charles W. Giles.

For several years the Lake Creek settlement continued, and separate school and church organizations were developed. However, it was gradually assimilated into the Center Creek development and became part of that community.

Industry in Center Creek has largely centered around farming. However, one of the first sawmills in the valley was constructed in Center Creek Canyon by Henry McMullin, William M. Wall and James Adams.

A general store was opened by William Baxter, who also operated a creamery. He bought milk from the farmers, made it into butter and